(e) if so, the details of assessment;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) what further steps are being taken to strengthen the disaster management mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (g) A disaster management system is in place at national, State and district level in the country. With the change in orientation to one encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief and rehabilitation, a need was felt to further strengthen the institutional and coordination mechanism and vest it with necessary legislative back-up. The Government have, therefore, introduced the Disaster Management Bill, 2005 in the Rajya Sabha on 11.5.2005. The Bill *inter-alia* provides for constitution of Disaster Management Authorities, formulation and implementation of disaster management plans, establishment of Disaster Response Funds and Disaster Mitigation Funds; establishment of a National Disaster Response Force for specialist response and National Institute of Disaster Management for human resource development.

Ex-communication of Tsunami hit families

2401. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that several Tsunami hit families in Chennai have been ex-communicated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) However, the Government of Tamil Nadu has reported a case relating to the ex-communication of five families of fishermen by the self appointed fishermen Panchayat in Tiruvallur district for the reason that they refused to part with the cash and materials received by them from Non-Governmental Organizations as Tsunami relief to the community. The Government of Tamil Nadu is seized of the matter.